

>> Testimony Appropriations Committee
>> March 4, 2011

>> Jenny Cubano
Debi Lombardo

>>
>>

>> Good Evening Members of the Appropriations Committee.
>> My name is Jenny Cubano and I am a Medical Case Manager at Hispanos
>> Unidos Meriden Satellite office. While I understand that some
services need to be cut; I do not comprehend including into those cuts
programs that are saving people's lives.
>> As a Case Manager, I see first-hand how stressful clients get when
>> they do not have health insurance. Some of my clients have been
able
>> to return to work because of the CADAP program. This program has
>> given them that opportunity. It is great that medications are
getting people back to work and that HIV/AIDS is now a controllable
disease. But eliminating or cutting CADAP drastically will put a lot
of people at risk of non adherence to medication because they cannot
afford it, if they cannot afford their medication this may also cause
them to become resistant to medication from not taking it correctly.
>> Some of my clients that are on SSDI, working or collecting
>> unemployment do not even qualify for the Low Income Medical
>> Assistance Program through DSS. If they are approved, they usually
>> have to satisfy the required spend down amount before actually
getting medical services. Some clients have spend down amounts that
exceed \$4,000 which makes it difficult to meet the spenddown. This will
mean that clients are going to be without their medication until the
spend down is met.
>> It is because of a program like CADAP that our clients are living a
>> long and healthy life. They are able to take their HAART as
>> prescribed by their doctor and are dying of routine old age disease
>> like Cardiac disease, cancer...This longevity will allow them to be
>> productive people in their community. If people are forced to go
without their medication until they have met the spend down, the
possibility of resistance will increase, which in turn will lead to a
higher priced regimen.
>> It is imperative that programs for prevention of HIV and CADAP are
>> not cut so that we can continue to prevent people from becoming
infected and people diagnosed with HIV do not have to get sicker from
the stress of worrying about how to get the life saving medications and
instead can be assured that there will not be interruption with their
medical regimen.

>> Thank you.
>>
>> Jenny Cubano